AMERICAN TELEGRAPH.

[From the Southern Press.]

Heads of The Whig Party.

In the window of Taylor & Maury's bookstore, on the Avenue, may be seen, side by side, the portraits of three prominent Whig aspirants for the Presidential chair. Even those who scoff at Lavater's theory must be struck with the peculiar consonance between the characters and faces of the three, respectively; and the contrast is the more striking in consequence of the proximity of the pictures. The eye first falls on the stern face of Winfield Scott, on every line and furrow of which is stamped the soldier—one accustomed to command, and impatient of contradiction or control. There is something imperious and impetuous in the face, softened by traces of natural kindness of heart. Sternness, not severity, is the chief characteristic; a hasty, but not vindictive temper, indicated by the deep lines of that strong face, which has intellect in it too, and traces of earnest, painful thought. On the other side lowers the grand brow, and gleam out the cavernous eyes of Daniel Webster, arresting and riveting the gaze of the most careless observer; for none could imagine that to be the face of a common man. Like some painting of the old masters, it seems all in shadow, so deep is the gloom, so solemn the outward aspect of the man. It is a face to haunt one long after it has been looked upon—one that cannot be forgotten, and to be mistaken for none other. Thought and passion both have stamped their impress upon every lineament; yet it is a face and head to admire, not to attract. Thought, in its outward indications, is always stern, and it is often difficult to determine the difference between the traces it leaves on the countenance and those ploughed by passion; but in this face are apparent the marks of both.

It is said by Burke that a great intellect is as necessarily accompanied by strong passions as a great fire by great heat; and this is one instance which would confirm the truth of the theory. Between the two, the great general and the famous statesman, is another head—that of the present occupant of the Presidential chair, Millard Fillmore—as charasteristic as the other two. Viewed alone, it is a somewhat striking face—rather a handsome and pleasing one; but in that proximity, the contrast is unfortunate. The strong character impressed on the other two neutralizes still more its expression, and causes one to remember the striking picture given by Thomas Carlyle of "a smooth shaven respectability" incarnate. Everything in the face is smooth, sleek, and respectable—caution and prudence its characteristics. Strong impulse, deep thought, or sudden passion, seems never to have ruffled the serenity of a soul "content to dwell in decencies forever," and which could find in the commonplace its most congenial food. The owner of that head is one of those described by Cassius—who "sleep well o' nights."

Many a passer-by casts a casual glance at those three heads, without pausing to scan and consider the contrasts they present, and the lessons to be learned from them; but they afford food for more of reflection and of moralizing than we can now bestow.

One of these three will most probably be the choice of the Whig party, in high sanhedrim assembled, next week.

LAZY MEN—ENERGY IS THE TRUE MARK OF GENIUS.—Ralph Waldo Emerson, in one of his recent lectures, describes with the clear sweep of a painter the vital necessity of energy and labor to even the most gifted. In the present day of steam and punctuality, the lazy man, no matter how extraordinary his acquirements, must always fall behind in the race of human life. He says:

"Genius, unexerted, is no more genius than a bushel of acorns is a forest of oaks. There may be epics in men's brains, just as there are oaks in acorns, but the tree and the book must come out before we can measure them. We may naturally recall here that large class of grumblers and wishers who spend the time in longing to be higher than they are, while they should have been employed in advancing themselves. These bitterly moralize on the injustice of society. Do they want a change? Let them change—who prevents them? If you are as high as your faculties permit you to rise in the scale of society, why should you complain of them?

"It is God that arranged the law of imprudence. Implead him, or be silent? If you have capacity for a higher station, fill it—what hinders you? How many men would like to go to sleep beggars and wake up Rothschilds and Astors! How many men would fain go to bed dunces to be waked up Solomons! You reap what you have sown. They who sow dunce seed, vice seed, laziness seed, usually get a crop. They that sow wind reap the whirlwind. A man of mere 'capacity undeveloped' is only an organized dream with a skin on it. A flint and a genius that will not strike fire are no better than wet junk wood. We have Scripture for it, that 'a living dog is better than a dead lion.' If you would go up, go—if you would be seen, shine.

"At the present day, eminent position in any profession is the result of hard, unwearied labor. Men can no longer fly at one dash into an eminent position. They have got to hammer it out by steady and rugged blows. The world is no longer clay, but rather iron, in the hand of its workers."

The Democratic Candidates.

The game of the Democrats is a very ingenious one, but we do not think it will win this time. Because it won in 1844, it does not follow that it will be successful always. The people will not be forever content with political nonentities. They will require to know who a man is before electing him President—not run the doubtful and dangerous chances of finding out *after*. In the better days of the republic, great services and a high order of ability, exhibited during a long series of years, were required to merit the distinction of a nomination. With the Democrats nowadays service, ability, and experience are alike at a discount. With them, obscurity is the highest of recommendations. They argue that the less a man is known the less can be said against him; and *therefore*, if he is not absolutely odious, politically and morally, they can rally their party upon him. This plan worked so well in 1844 that they are trying it now in 1852. It will not answer, for many reasons. The lesson the people learned then is not wholly forgotten; and, besides, the Democratic party is not as servile to conventions as formerly. Pierce is no "Young Hickory," as Polk was, and, what is more, he has no "Old Hickory" to back him.—*N. O. Bulletin.*

We observe that while the course of the Hon. H. MARSHALL, and the other seceders from the Whig caucus, is almost universally condemned by the reliable Whig press of the South, it is warmly commended by the Democratic press. *The Kentucky Flag*, after glorifying Mr. Marshall to a degree that was absolutely disgusting, acknowledged that it did so *because his course had the tendency to injure the Whig party!* Our neighbor of the *Times*, a few days since, also entered the lists in Mr. Marshall's defence, and, we presume, for the same reason. Mr. Marshall's withdrawal from the Whig caucus is denounced by all the Whig papers in his district as unwise, impolitic, indiscreet, and unnecessary; while the Democratic papers are warmly praising him for doing what, they say, was exactly right. It may be that the Whigs are wrong, and Mr. Marshall and the Democrats right; but people who notice such a state of affairs will have their own notions.—*Louisville Courier.*

VERDICT IN A GAMBLING CASE.—An interesting case was decided in the New York Superior Court on Thursday. It was the case of John Taylor *vs.* Shirlock Hillman, to recover $3,500 paid by Taylor to Hillman for a gambling debt. This is one of the instances where ruin, great and immediate, has been brought on by a propensity for gambling. Taylor got with his wife $7,000; he borrowed $1,000, and by gambling failed for $15,000; lost an extensive comb establishment, and is now a cartman in New York, earning one dollar per day. Verdict for plaintiff in the full amount claimed.

LIFE AND SERVICES OF GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT.

BY A SOUTHERN WHIG.

[From the Baltimore Patriot.]

Winfield Scott was born near Petersburg, in Virginia, on the 13th of June, in the year 1786. He finished his studies at the College of William and Mary, and was admitted to the bar in 1806. After practising law in Virginia about a year, he emigrated to South Carolina.

Our difficulties with England caused Congress to pass an act in April, 1808, to increase the army. Scott applied immediately for a commission in one of the regiments about to be raised, and in May, 1808, was appointed a captain of light artillery.

War was not actually declared until June, 1812. The interval between 1808 and the declaration of war was one of great political excitement. Scott sided with the Democratic party, supported the election of President Madison, and approved, advocated, and wrote in favor of war measures.

In July, 1812, Scott was commissioned lieutenant-colonel in the 2d artillery, and proceeded to the Niagara frontier. In October of that year Lieutenant Elliott applied to Scott for assistance in men to capture the Adams and Caledonia, two British vessels of war then lying under the protection of the guns of Fort Erie. The vessels were both captured; but Elliott was compelled to abandon the Adams. She got aground, and the British attempted to retake her, but were repulsed by the gallantry of Colonel Winfield Scott. This was the first time he had met the enemy, and here, as every subsequent engagement where he was first in command, he was victorious.

A few days after was fought the memorable battle of Queenstown Heights. Scott was the hero of the day, and covered himself with glory. The battle lasted for many hours, and was fought on the part of the Americans with most fearful odds against them. The British army, having been reinforced, numbered not less than thirteen hundred men, while the Americans were reduced to less than three hundred. Finding that the militia on the opposite shore refused, or was unable to cross to their aid, and that succor was hopeless, Scott's heroic band were at length compelled to surrender. But their gallant deeds upon that day carried inspiration to every American heart. The disgrace of Hull's surrender was wiped off—the taunts of the enemy checked—the character of the American army redeemed.

Scott was carried a prisoner to Quebec. While he was there, an incident occurred which had a most important bearing upon the future conduct of the war, and is deserving of particular mention.

At the time Great Britain denied the right of expatriation: in other words, she denied the right of any of her subjects to become citizens of another country, contending that they owed to her perpetual allegiance. According to this doctrine, a native of Ireland, Scotland, or England, who had emigrated to the United States, and become a naturalized American citizen, remained still a subject of the British government, and forfeited his life for treason if found in arms against her. The United States denied this doctrine—her naturalization laws being founded upon the opposite theory.

While Scott was a prisoner at Quebec, the British attempted to enforce their doctrine of perpetual allegiance in regard to certain Irish prisoners found in the ranks of the American army at Queenstown. The following is a description of the scene:

"Scott, being in the cabin of the transport, heard a bustle upon deck and hastened up. There he found a party of British officers in the act of mustering the prisoners, and separating from the rest such as by confession, or the accent of the voice, were judged to be Irishmen. The object was to send them in a frigate, then alongside, to England, to be tried and executed for the crime of high treason, they being taken in arms against their native allegiance. Twenty-three had been thus set apart when Scott reached the deck. The moment Scott ascertained the object of the British officers, he commanded his men to answer no more questions, in order that no other selections should be made by the test of speech. He commanded them to remain silent, and they strictly obeyed. This was done in spite of the threats of the British officers, and not another man was separated from his companions. Scott was repeatedly commanded to go below, and high altercations ensued. He addressed the party selected, and explained to them fully the reciprocal obligations of allegiance and protection, assuring them that the United States would not fail to avenge their gallant and faithful soldiers; and, finally, pledged himself in the most solemn manner that retaliation, and, if necessary, a refusal to give quarter in battle, should follow the execution of any one of the party. In the midst of this animated harangue, he was frequently interrupted by the British officers, but, though unarmed, could not be silenced."

The Irishmen thus selected were sent to England. As soon as Scott was exchanged, he proceeded to Washington and reported the whole affair to the Secretary of War by a written communication. This report was transmitted to Congress, and Scott, in personal interviews, pressed the subject upon the attention of members. An act was accordingly passed on the 3d of March, 1813, vesting the President with the power of retaliation. In an engagement soon after Scott captured a number of prisoners. True to his pledge given at Quebec, he immediately selected twenty-three of the number to be confined in the interior of the country, there to abide the fate of the twenty-three Irishmen taken at Queenstown and sent to England for trial.

The result of this firm resolution on the part of Scott, and of the legislation consequent upon his efforts, was, not only to save the lives of the twenty-three Irish prisoners, but to compel England, throughout the remainder of the war, to respect the rights of our naturalized citizens, by virtually abandoning her claim to perpetual allegiance.

Just after the close of the war, as Gen. Scott was walking along one of the wharves of New York, he was hailed by his old Irish friends for whom he had interfered at Quebec. They had just been released from the English prisons, and now rushed to embrace him as their deliverer.

At the capture of Fort George, on the 27th of May, 1813, Scott led the advanced guard. He landed on the Canada shore of Lake Ontario, formed his command on the beach, and scaled the banks behind which the British forces were drawn up, fifteen hundred strong. The action was short and desperate, but ended in the total rout of the enemy. Scott was the first man to enter the fort, and hauled down the British flag with his own hands.

On the 10th and 11th of November, 1813, Scott defeated the enemy in two actions—one at Fort Matilda, the other at Hoophole Creek.

On the 9th of March, 1814, when only *twenty-seven* years of age, Scott was promoted to the rank of brigadier-general.

A few days after this promotion, General Brown, then chief in command on the Niagara frontier, left Scott at Buffalo to instruct and drill the army which was then concentrating at that point. Scott had entire charge of this camp of instruction for about three months. The results of the discipline and spirit which his teachings here infused into the Northern army were soon to be developed on the fields of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane.

The battle of Chippewa was fought on the 5th of July, 1814. Scott, with 1,900 Americans, met on an open plain and routed with the bayonet 2,100 of the veteran troops of England—the very flower of the army. As the two armies approached to close quarters, Scott called aloud to McNeil's battalion, "the enemy say we are good at long shot, but cannot stand the cold iron! I call upon the eleventh instantly to give the lie to that slander! Charge!" They did charge. Before Gen. Brown could come up with the rear division of the American army, Scott had already won the day, and was in hot pursuit of the flying enemy. The British had been beaten with their own boasted weapon—the bayonet. The valor and skill of the *Boy-General* of twenty-eight had vanquished all the boasted prowess of her world-renowned veterans.

General Brown, in his official report of this battle, says: "Brigadier General Scott is entitled to the highest praise our country can bestow. His brigade covered itself with glory."

The battle of Lundy's Lane (or Niagara as it is frequently called) was fought on the 26th of July, 1814, just three weeks after that of Chippewa. The battle commenced about forty minutes before sunset, and continued until midnight. Here again Scott was the master-spirit of the fight. American valor again triumphed over the veteran regiments of Britain. Scott had two horses killed under him, was wounded in the side, but still fought on until the close of the battle, when he was prostrated by a wound in the shoulder. This was the hardest-fought battle of the war. Our limited space will not allow a more extended notice of its details, and, indeed, it would be superfluous to recapitulate the events of that glorious day, familiar as they are to every American schoolboy. Where so many have gathered imperishable laurels, it was truly a proud honor for the youthful Scott to be hailed by universal consent, "*the* hero of Lundy's Lane."

For his gallantry in these actions, Scott was soon after promoted to the rank of major general. On November 3d, 1814, Congress passed a resolution awarding a gold medal to Major General Scott, "in testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his distinguished services in the successive conflicts of Chippewa and Niagara, and of his *uniform gallantry and good conduct* in sustaining the high reputation of the arms of the United States."

Soon after the treaty of peace, President Madison tendered to General Scott a place in his Cabinet—that of the Secretary of War. This complimentary office was declined from motives highly creditable to General Scott.

Being still feeble from his wounds, he soon after went to Europe for the restoration of his health and for professional improvement. He was also entrusted by the government with important diplomatic functions. He executed his instructions in so satisfactory a manner that President Madison caused to be written to him by the Secretary of State a special letter of thanks.

In 1832 Scott was ordered to take command in the Black Hawk war. He sailed from Buffalo for Chicago with nearly one thousand troops in four steamboats.

On the 8th of July, while on the voyage, the cholera broke out among the troops with fearful violence. On the boat in which General Scott sailed with two hundred and twenty troops, there occurred in six days one hundred and thirty cases of cholera, and fifty-one deaths. After General Scott had proceeded from Chicago to the Mississippi river, the pestilence again broke out among his troops. During the prevalence of this terrible scourge, his devoted attention upon his suffering soldiers excited the admiration of all who were present. In the language of a letter written at the time by an officer of the army—"The General's course of conduct on that occasion should establish for him a reputation not inferior to that which he has earned on the battle-field; and should exhibit him not only as a warrior, but as a man—not only as the hero of battles, but as the hero of humanity."

After the termination of the Black Hawk war, Gen. Scott and Gov. Reynolds were appointed by the United States government commissioners to treat with the Northwestern Indians in reference to all pending difficulties. In the various conferences held with the deputations from the various tribes, it became the duty of Gen. Scott to conduct the discussions. This he did with great ability and ingenuity, and the result of the commission was to procure a treaty just to the Indians and highly advantageous to the United States—the Indians ceding the title to more than ten millions of acres, being a great portion of the lands of Iowa and Michigan.

After the termination of the Black Hawk war and of the treaty with the Indians, Gen. Cass, then Secretary of War, wrote, in reply to Scott's official report, as follows:

"Allow me to congratulate you upon this fortunate consummation of your arduous duties, and to express my entire approbation of the whole course of your proceedings, during a series of difficulties requiring higher moral courage than the operations of an active campaign under ordinary circumstances."

Directly after his return from the Black Hawk war, Gen. Scott was sent by President Jackson on a confidential mission of great responsibility. South Carolina nullification then threatened to embroil the nation in civil war. There was imminent danger that the strife would at once begin between the citizens of Charleston and the United States troops stationed there. The object of the President in sending Scott to South Carolina at this time was to prevent, if possible, any direct act of collision, and at the same time enforce the laws of the federal government. Scott's moderation and discretion while at Charleston saved the country from the horrors of civil war. The full history of his valuable services, on that occasion, cannot now be written, as much of it still remains under the seal of secrecy.

On the 20th of January, 1836, Gen. Scott was ordered to take command in the Florida war. There he did all that the greatest military talent could accomplish. But the malice or envy of a brother officer, by misrepresentations made to the President, procured his recall, for the purpose of having his official conduct subjected to the opinion of a court of inquiry. That court, after full investigation, pronounced the charges against Gen. Scott unsustained; and, further, that "he had been zealous and indefatigable in the discharge of his duties, and that his plan of campaign was all devised and prosecuted with energy, steadiness, and ability."

In 1838 Gen. Scott was sent by the President to the Canada frontier, then in a state of fearful excitement on account of the burning of the Caroline within the American territory. The whole population of northern New York seemed about to march into Canada to avenge the wrong which had been done to the national honor. The object of the administration was to preserve the peace between the two nations until pending difficulties could be settled by negotiation. For this purpose Scott was sent to the frontier. There he labored night and day, passing rapidly from point to point, superintending and directing the actions both of the military and the civil authorities; and frequently, along a line of eight hundred miles, addressing immense gatherings of the excited citizens. He succeeded in his mission beyond the expectations of the most sanguine. The peace of the country was preserved.

During the same year he was ordered to the delicate service of removing the Cherokee nation beyond the Mississippi. Here he displayed at once the highest degree of energy, sagacity, and humanity.

The leading journals of the day were filled with encomiums upon the conduct of Scott in these services. The National Intelligencer of September 27th, 1838, says: "The manner in which this gallant officer has acquitted himself within the last year upon our Canada frontier, and lately among the Cherokees, has excited the universal admiration and gratitude of the whole nation."

In 1839 arose the Northeastern Boundary difficulty. The *disputed territory* was about to become the battle-ground between the troops of Maine and New Brunswick. War was considered inevitable. In this crisis General Scott was again deputed by the government to calm the rising storm. His able services on that occasion showed him to be possessed of the highest talents as a statesman and diplomatist. A war considered inevitable was prevented—the honor of the country preserved—and Scott returned with fresh laurels upon his brow; and "the hero of Lundy's Lane" was hailed on all sides as the "*Great Pacificator.*"

The services of General Scott in the Mexican war are of so recent date, and so fresh in the recollections of the American people and the whole civilized world, that it is useless to do more than make a passing allusion.

On the 10th of March, 1847, Gen. Scott arrived before Vera Cruz. On the 14th of September, 1847, he planted the stars and stripes over the national palace in the city of Mexico. Within these six months San Juan D'Ulloa—the American Gibraltar—was stormed, and the battles of Cerro Gordo, Contreras, San Antonio, Churubusco, Molinos del Rey, and Chepultepec were fought and won. With less than ten thousand fighting men he attacked and routed, again and again, thirty thousand of the best troops of Mexico posted behind the strongest fortifications, and fighting with the courage of desperation. Nothing of military achievement recorded in ancient or modern history can excel the glory of that march from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico!

Such is a brief sketch of one whose life has been devoted to the service and glory of his country, and whose patriotism is enlarged enough to extend to the whole country. Born a Southern man, reared and educated among Southerners, he has fought and bled alike for the North and South; and to suppose that he could be willing to do injustice to either, would be to declare the last forty years of his life but a lie.

Much abuse has recently been heaped upon this gallant patriot because he declines giving written pledges upon the various questions which may be involved in the approaching Presidential election. We doubt not that several of the gentlemen now prominent before the Democratic party would cheerfully give pledges of *any kind whatever*, provided they could thereby secure a nomination. It is not difficult to make promises, and it is a very easy thing to break them. We could point to an illustrious example in the history of the Democratic party which occurred but a very few years since. A certain Presidential candidate gave a written pledge that he was in favor of the protective system, and got tariff votes thereby; but as soon as elected, became a sudden convert to the doctrines of free trade.

When a citizen has been for nearly half a century in the service of his country, his *past history* is the best guaranty for his future conduct.